THE STRENGTH OF THE INVASION.

The number of the enemy engaged in the late demonstration on Washington continues to be a matter of speculation and controversy. The very what the opinion of ordinary people will be on the fact, as we have previously intimated, that there should be any room for such discussions, is the strongest possible proof that the number of the enemy in our immediate presence was comparatively small.

From the best information we can gain it appears to us that the statements we originally made on the subject have not been invalidated by the additional evidence brought to light, since the disappearance of the enemy from our front has enabled the people of Maryland, residing in the vicinity, to make report on the number of the invaders who passed beneath their observation.

We stated on Thursday last that the number of the troops actually engaged in the feint on Fort Stevens was not judged by competent observers to have exceeded five hundred nen. This is the force which laid Washington under "siege," for there was no actual attack on the defences at any other point; and yet such was the impression here produced that no attempt was made until late on Tuesday, the 12th instant, to feel the real strength of the invading force at that or any other point. It has never been doubted by us that the small force engaged in the demonstration on Fort Stevens was only the advance guard of a stronger force lying behind it, or near it, and ready to be revealed on the approach of our troops; but no attack having been made by our troops until late on the second day of the city's investment, there was no occasion for a manifestation of the full strength of the enemy in this direction. The siege was sufficiently established for the time by "the five

We learn authentically that the headquarters of Gen. Early, the commander of the invading forces were on the farm of Mr. Riggs, adjacent to that of Mr. Blair: and the number of the Confederate troops who bivouseked on the same farm is estimated by witnesses, and from the marks left by the enemy, to have been between one and two

At Beltsville about five hundred men made their appearance and interupted the telegraphic and railroad communications with Baltimore for thirty-six hours. The whole number operating in this direction is judged by our informant to have been about seven or eight hundred troopers with two pieces of artillery. There were still other bodies operating in other

directions on the outskirts of the city, and these several detachments represent, as near as we can now estimate, about four thousand men, being a portion of the eight thousand men who, as we stated on Friday last, were engaged in the expedition, according to the information furnished to us at that time from what we believed to be a reliable source, the letter of a Confederate officer writing in the confidence of friendship to a kinsman in this city. We were then in some doubt whether it was meant to embrace in this number the whole expedition engaged in the invasion of Mazyland, or only that part of it which, after the battle of Monocacy, was detached in this direction to amuse and distract our authorities while their comrades were making off towards the Potomac fords with their booty. We hope soon to gain some definite intelligence on this point, when we can make a more accurate approximation to the entire force enlisted in the recent invasion. The Richmond papers, in reciting the successes of the expedition, will doubtless shed some light on its numerical strength.

Those who assert the recent presence of a large force in Maryland, reaching the number of thirtyfive or forty thousand-[Mr. Wilkeson is alone in the estimate of fifty thousand]-overlook some palpable considerations which are opposed to this ides, and any one of which should induce rational people to practice great caution in making such

In the first place, with all the admitted want of military vigilance in Washington, it is impossible to believe that a force of such magnitude could make a descent on Maryland and on the capital in such a stealthy manner as really to take our military administration by surprise. The intrusion of a mouse into one's dwelling may escape notice, but the entrance of an elephant does not come without observation. The larger the number of the enemy the worse for the credit of the military administration which was surprised by its approach.

In the second place, the invading force not only did not compass, but did not even attempt any thing worthy of thirty-five thousand men; and certaiply it will not be pretended that the enemy's hardihood was any where repressed by the boldness and vigor of our forces in resisting his advance. He went where he pleased throughout the State and Baltimore, in terror." The "terror," we cheerwithout serious inconvenience or molestationdoing, however, only what ten thousand men could more successfully do than thirty-five thousand, because of the greater celerity of movement in that it will require something more than "assersmaller bodies.

can spare, at this crisis of the war, thirty-five thou-Richmond

And, in the fourth place, who supposes that our military administration would think it safe to pursue the retreating enemy with the small force sent to harass and overtake him, if it was really thought that the enemy numbered thirty five thousand men? On this supposition, it would be patriotic to hope that our pursuing forces might not suc- urday, the reporter of our contemporary, who has lity of milk before they deigned to imbibe that ceed in overhauling the invaders.

In view of these obvious considerations, we hope the judicious friends of the military administration will no longer seek unduly to practise on their own credulity in this matter, as the exercise of a little common sense will at least preserve them from adopting estimates which are self-evident absurdities. It is better to speak within the bounds of reason, and, though truth is not always identical with verisimilitude, it is not safe to dis card all respect for the latter in making assertions open to manifest exceptions on the score of probability. Whatever may be the truth in the premises, we are sure that every body will agree with us in admitting that there is no verisimilitude in

vaders numbered thirty-five or forty thousand | sage and safe conclusion that "we cannot and statement, which is equally confirmed by the testimony of Confederate officers and by the observation of intelligent citizens of Maryland, we cannot doubt

MILITARY BUCOLICS.

An ingenious writer has said that if an Englishman, a Frenchman, and a German, severally representing the distinctive types of their respective national characters, were required to prepare the most accurate report on the size, shape, nature, and habits of the camel, they would each set about the performance of the task in a different way. The Englishman would immediately betake himself to the regions inhabited by the quadruped, and there study him in all his aspects and relations, preliminary to the preparation of the required treatise. The renchman, with nice analysis and wide research, would speedily collect all that had been written on the subject by antecedent observers, and from these resources compile, with rare ingenuity and faultless method, a masterly description of the "ship of the desert." The German, true to his subjective nature, would follow still another course. He would ruminate long on the conditions of the proposed problem in the seclusion of his closet, and there, after much profound meditation on the pre-established harmonies and analogies of the animal world, would gradually proceed to develop the bulk, habits, figure, and qualities of the camel from the depths of his internal consciousness.

We have been reminded of these several methods of inquiry by the different speculations of some of our contemporaries with regard to the size, purposes, and operations of the force recently engaged for two weeks at different points in the invasion of Maryland. The English methed of observation having been pretermitted (either from rudential considerations or from a want of natural curiosity on the part of our military authorities) until the opportunity of testing scientifically the proportions and aspects of the invading force of the enemy was lest, it follows that all who are now animated by a love of knowledge on this subject, and who have sufficient energy to pursue it under lifficulties, are left to select one or the other of the two remaining methods-the French or the German. Some there are who much affect the French system of inquiry. They gather copiously all that has been seen, said, or written by others about the operations of the invaders, and, accordng to their means of correct information, and the neasure of their credulity, proceed from the data before them to determine the probable numbers, movements, and designs of the invaders. Under these circumstances, it is natural that the accounts gleaned in this way with regard to the nondescript Confederate camel recently wandering on our borders should differ widely, according to the sources from which they are drawn. But the German method of scientific deduction

s, after all, the favorite one with a few persons of nore philosophical and speculative turn of mind. Abstracting their thoughts from the sublunary hings of time and sense, and placing a profound and implicit reliance on the inscrutable wisdom of our military administration, they proceed, with much assurance of faith and docility of understanding, to argue the magnitude of the enemy authorities were thrown. Where the fright was so great, it is natural to suppose, they cogently reason, that it was created by an adequate cause, and as nothing less than fifty thousand veteran troops. aiming to take the capital, ought to have sent such carror before them into the hearts of our rulers, ergo the recent invading force numbered fifty thousand, and was designed to take Washington. This is the German method of developing the size. novements, and objective points of an army, " from the depths of the internal consciousness." and is, we need not say, the one most approved by "loval" and official minds.

It were useless to inform our readers that our highly subjective and philosophical contemporary, the Washington Chronicle, favors the Germanic method of inquiry with regard to the nature, magnitude, and objects of the recent invasion of Maryland. In its number of Saturday last it says:

"The rebels are so flattered because they have put two great capitals, Washington and Baltimore, in terror, (and let us for our oven sakes accept the assertion that they have lone so with a very large force,) that they will not heaitate to repeat the experiment, and when they do our entrenchments should be filled with earnest, eager, and disciplined

We should like to gratify our confiding neighbor by accepting the plea which it makes to the indulgent consideration of the people when it asks them "for our own sakes" to accept "the assertion" that it must have been "a very large force" which could have "put two great capitals, Washington fully admit, in the case of those for which it is entitled to speak, if it will be any satisfaction to our contemporary, but we beg humbly to suggest tion" to convince us that "a very large force" is In the third place, who supposes that Gen. Lee the only cause which could produce such an effect on certain persons not necessary to be named-resand men from his operations in Petersburg and siding in Baltimore of course. We must have more cogent evidence on this point. Especially is of observation among the milkmen and milkmaids active in their movements, and in this way would such evidence necessary when the Chronicle devotes itself daily to the insertion in its reporter's columns of facts and testimony which tend utterly to discredit the military theory projected under its editorial head with regard to the extent and object of the invasion. For instance, in its number of Satbeen following the path of the "invader" on the outskirts of our city, is allowed to say:

"It is only a few days since Washington was startled out its propriety by the announcement of a large rebel force ithin its suburbs. We have hitherto been so quiet and undisturbed in the enjoyment of our rights as citizens and as Unionists that the barefaced audacity of rebel raiders presuming to come within a bird's-eye view of our capital would have been a sufficient reason for far more trepidation than any of the most nervous experiences

This is quite consolatory to "nervous" individuals. Indeed, we think it must be admitted that the "barefaced audacity" of these "rebel raiders" had never been sufficiently appreciated until this discerning reporter reminded us of it.

The writer then proceeds to discourse on the mysterious fact that the rebels should have been the upsubstantiated declaration that the recent in- "allowed" to make this raid, and he arrives at the

men; and when, in the absence of definite in- ought not to disguise from ourselves that they formation, all the difficulties of the problem are have, indeed, ventured up to the very mouth better solved by accepting a much more moderate of our Washington citadels." To this effect he

be one, why the rebels should have been allowed to make so extensive and destructive a raid, it is a fact that we connot and ought not to disguise from ourselves, that they have, indeed, ventured up to the very mouth of our Washington citadels, and that almost have they 'bearded the lien in his den; the Douglas in his hall.' They have been here, and they have left their traces behind."

He proceeds therefore to describe these "traes" in the devastating path of the invading 'horde," lying in the direction of Fort Lincoln. as follows :

"Leaving Fort Lincoln and proceeding out the Bladens burg road, every thing wears the same quiet aspect. The fields look as though they had never been passed by a de-vastating horde, far less as if sacrilegious hands had ever been laid upon them. On our way we met several Union soldiers, fired and faint."

These "Union soldiers" - ere doubtless "tired the city on Monday or Tuesday last. The repor- Club rooms, where he was feasted here, fin Wash-

"Making tracks along the Bladensburg road, it is by no means difficult to come across residences which have re-ceived memorable visits from rebel detachments. Here stands one, for instance. It is a fine capacious woode farm-house, standing considerably back from the toad. If you make your visit to it in easy and familian style, you thread your way through a flourishing corn field and are instantly beset by two bull-dogs, whose actions betray a distant affinity to incipient hydrophobia. This ad-vance guard having performed their duties to admiration and being safely passed, you are at length able to attai the main building, which, however, bears no traces of having been visited by unfriendly scouts The proprietor. respectable hour of five o'clock, a small party of reb cavalry rode up to the door and requested glasses of milk for the party. The names of these were Lieut. Ford, 20th regiment Virginia cavalry, Wm. L. Jackson's corps, Breckinridge's division; Capt. J. D. Meal, and Lieut. Craycroft; the name of the fourth had slipped our informant's memory. They acknowledged without reservation that they were Confederate soldiers, and they likewise averred that their only mission was to procure the gentl stimulant of a glass of milk all round."

What audacity is here! These invaders, seems, "acknowledged without reservation" that they were Confederate soldiers, and, with perjured art, rivalling the duplicity of Sinon before the walls of Troy, they masked their fell designs on the capital of the nation by "averring that their of a glass of milk."

The alarming magnitude of the insurgent forces operating on the line of the railroad in this direction more clearly appears in such statements as the following, made by the same loyal reporter for

"If the rebel visiters at this vicinity had been in a con dition to damage it there is no doubt they could have occa-sioned considerable loss. The fields were teeming with rich barvests, and several hundred head of cattle were grazing in the adjoining grounds. Under the force of circumstances, however, they are said to have behaved them

lves very respectably. . The rebel visiters, one and all, said that 'if the Yan kees dared to come as near to Richmond as we are to Washington the ladies would take them prisoners—wo men who, once worth two or three hundred thousand dollars, are now c mpelled to work like common laborers in the open field. Indeed, from the way in which our infor-mant spoke of his late visiters, whom he involuntarily and under protest entertained, it is to be argued that they hold the Yankees in the most contemptible estimation, and that they look upon the past war policy as effete, and unequal to the requirements of the hour. Their visit was of about an hour's length, and, being refreshed by unlimited glasses of milk, they made a retreat, and doubtless had a good time it for the rest of the evening.

After reading thus far in this bucolic report of our loval neighbor we fell into a fit of musing, our minds being sorely puzzled to account for this propensity of the bibulous Southerners to refresh themselves with "unlimited glasses of milk," as a tonic or stimulant preliminary to the deadly assault they meditated on the capital. By what benignant influences, we ask, was it that these bloody men, fifty thousand strong, (we have Mr. Wilkeson's word for it,) were turned from the pillage and sack of Washington to engage in predacious raids on the dairies of Maryland? Did mother Nature re-assert her power over these rugged spirits, and bring back to their famished lips the primitive tastes of childhood, that they might be ar- and yet, "odd" as the thing may be, it is none the rested in their wild career against the capital by less true, as witness the alarm created by such the savory enticements of the milk pan and the cream shadowy "nonentities" as Mr. Wilkeson projects jug? We know it was a sudden rush of tender remembrances of youth and innocence and love which held in check the hand of Medea, in the classic page of Apollonius Rhodius, as she raised that hand aloft in the act of meditated self-destruction, and who shall say that it was not "the gentle stimulant of a glass of milk all round," to use the lanin our last extremity) and concentrate all our loyal whereabouts of the rebel forces and of gleaning ence down on the minds and hearts of our one. or miscalculations in this statement they are doubtmics, reviving in their mouths such a taste for the
less unintentional, resulting mainly from the fact
lacter secretions of the vascine udder that, inthat the writer's informants may have confounded. of war, they were content to soothe their sanguin- ment of the enemy, moving in different directions. ary thirst with "unlimited glasses of milk."

N. B .- We have but a single request to make of the reporter for our contemporary to whom we are indebted for these charming military idylls in prose: it is, that when he next starts out on a tour presume that its several detachments were very alarmed by the recent invaders, he will be curious be apt to produce by their ubiquity an impression ried any thing like shooting-irons and other implements of warfare, or whether, as we infer from the lactea ubertas of his parrative, they were simply armed with lactometers, by which to test the qua-" gentle stimulant."

CROPS IN SOUTHERN KENTUCKY.

The correspondence of the Department of Agriculture represents a very promising condition of the crops in shown us a letter from Jamestown, in Russel county, near there before. The total product will be equal to last year Grass and oats are very fine, forty or fifty per cent. better than last year. Corn, too, promises a better yield, though the number of acres planted was less by about one third. Cotton looks well. Potatoes are good. The weather dufing May and June was very seasonable Altogether, a more favorable condition of agricultural affairs could not b

We observe that Mr. Samuel Wilkeson, the intelligent Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, has prepared and published a statement de- evidently understanding exactly what was expected of signed to show that the insurgent forces engaged in the recent invasion of Maryland reached the probable number of "fifty thousand veteran troops!" In support of this statement Mr. Wilkeson adduces eight thousand; and many of the former returned mountthe following data:

colonel in Hampton's division, dated "Ten miles northwest of Richmond, Va., June 22," in which fifty thousand of us in all, have received orders to march to Harper's Ferry, and the rations for the men necessary to go there have been issued."

2. A statement made in Alexandria by one Rowe, a Fredericksburg secessionist, (recently in this city negotiating with our military authorities and faint' from the vigor with which they had for the return of certain hostages,) to the effect marched on Washington as the enemy approached that "he had been too guarded to tell at the Union ngton,] that Gen. Early, with twenty thousand men, would soon leave Richmond for an attack on Washington." [A very "guarded" man was Mr. Rowe, to tell in Alexandria what he was too prudent to tell in Washington. And the inference of Mr. Wilkeson is very significant when he says: Sufficient heed was not given to this tattling, but to-day it is fresh in the remembrance of official persons."]

3. The statement of "A. H. Woolford, Assistant Surgeon Second Maryland Battalion Cavalry," that "he supposes" the recent expedition contained 10,000 cavalry, and "thinks" the infantry numbered 40,000 or 45,000. The truthfulness of Woolford's alleged statement may be inferred from the following specimen of his evidence :

"It was reported yesterday that Gen. Lee was crossing at Drainesville with 100,000 men. Nearly the whole rebel army is in Virginia. J hason's force is the same that was operating near Baltimore. We came yesterday from Balti-more to Washington, and struck the railroad at Laurel Station, burning a train of cars

As the raiders never went to Laurel, and as the petty force which made a descent in that direction came from Rockville, (as the people who live at raiding operations, and to induce Grant to withdraw troops only mission was to procure the gentle stimulant Laurel report,) it will be seen that Dr. Woolford from the Army of the Potomac, when they heard these is not a very accurate story-teller.

> 4. Mr. Wilkeson says that he knows "positively that preparations were made to assault Washington last Sunday night," but the idea was abandoned on Monday night, under the impression that the "golden opportunity" was lost. [This is given as "proof No. 4" to sustain the belief that the insurgent army numbered 50,000 men. hope our readers can appreciate its force. cannot.]

5. Under the head of "fifthly," Mr. Wilkeson enumerates a variety of particulars, such as-

That there were two Major Generals in the expedition that they ventured to come within a mile of our defences; that "Major Fry telegraphed to headquarters here from Rockville that the enemy's column was a mile long;" that on July 10 a despatch from Leesburg said, " five thousand rebel cavalry entered this town between six and seven P M.:" that "on the night of July 12 trains moved without cessation beyond Fort De Russey to the northwest, and were so reported here by telegraph;" that at daylight on July 13, on the ol! Rockville city road, rebels commenc-ed passing Virginia wards, and continued to pass in an un interrupted stream till 12 35 in the afternoon; that Breckinridge's and Early's divisions of infantry passed Rockville on the night of the 12th; that the rear guard under Jack son, an entire brigade, passed through Rockville after two o'clock in the after oon of the 13th; that on the 13th three regiments of rebel cavalry were seen from Fort Reno to pass on the road to Great Falls; and that two hundred wagons and two thousand head of cattle passed Leceburg July 12, food for the columns coming up behind.

Now, in simple reply to all this array of "stathat the presence of 50,000 men in any quarter, even in the vicinity of Washington, where there appears to be so little military enterprise or cuinferences. It is Byron who sings:

How odd, a single hobgoblin's nonentity, on paper, making them more terrible, to his eyes,

than fifty thousand rebel "identities." Fifty thousand men would be likely to make their presence felt in a way which would leave no necessity for a resort to speculation and conjecture. In the face of such a self-evident proposition, all elaborated paper estimates like those of Mr. guage of the Chronicle's reporter, which diverted Wilkeson are really the strongest confirmation of these myrmidons of Jeff. Davis from their "sacri- the truth that the alleged magnitude of the recent Saturday last, as follows: legious" assault on the central sest of the national expedition had no foundation in fact, but is purely life? If this view should commend itself to sub- a figment of the imagination. And, in corroborajective and contemplative minds, we have only to tion of this opinion, we insert below, copied from suggest that hereafter, in turning our eyes up- the Washington Chronicle of yesterday, some inwards to bless the propitious stars, we should, in teresting information furnished by one of its edimemory of our last great deliverance, avert our tors or reporters, who made a trip to Rockville on admiration and worship on the Milky Way, which some tidings of their doings by inquiring of the we may piously suppose to have "rained influ- people of Rockville." If there are exaggerations stead of sating their passions in the frantic strife matters a little by supposing that every detachrepresented a different body of men, tending to swell the aggregate force engaged in the invasion. enough to inquire whether these desperadoes car- with regard to their numbers which was simply the result of their celerity and enterprise.

Correspondence of the Washington Chronicle. ROCKVILLE, (MD.) JULY 14, 1864.

We learn that the few Union residents of Rockville and vicinity were apprized on Sunday night that the rebels vere coming, and the former fled for refuge into the

On Monday some three thousand of the rebel forces came up from the river, supposed to have crossed the Potomsc at Edwards's Ferry, and took the river road, passing along five miles south of Rockville to the vicinity of Southern Kentucky. Mr. Newton, the Commissioner, has Tenallytown. At the same time Bradley Johnson's command went via Frederick and turned off towards Bladens the Tennessee line, from which it appears that the yield of burg. Another detachment came via Damascus, Hyattswheat is extraordinary, considering the damage by freez- town, Laytonsville, Mechanicsville, and Rockville, and ing last winter. Some of it is better than ever known thence to the Seventh street road. Still another detachment had taken another route to Washington which was not known.

This cors ituted about one-half of the force engaged the raid. The other half, or about that propertion, were engaged in plundering and carrying off their plunder while those before named were making the feint upon Washington, to distract attention from the raiders, and to Washington, to distract attention from the raiders, and to greater thickness than those upon the moninduce a depletion of Gen. Mende's army, through the vided with powerful machinery.

THE RUMBER OF THE INVADING FORCE. | fears which they calculated their formidable demonstration would excite respecting the safety of the capital

The entire movement was deliberately concerted and harmoniously carried out—every detachment of any size them, and where they were expected at appointed times. 1. An intercepted letter written by a cavalry with better horses than they had when they came. When

he stated, in the confidence of writing, to a friend: batteries. The infantry and some of the cavalry are rep- veterans in the garrison duty which the Government or Ewell's Corps, with Hampton's cavalry, over resented to have been terribly ragged, and many of them barefooted, when they advanced.

When the detachment which came in by the way of force of dismounted cavalry, went out to meet them, and, at Gaithersville, about five miles from Rockville, with about six hundred men, encountered some twenty five hundred infantry and cavalry, and was obliged to fall back. His movement checked them but a short time.

When they reached the town they speedily proceeded to help themselves to what they particularly needed in the way of shoes and clothes, and gathered a few horses and cattle, which they dispatched to the resr, leaving the most do part of their pluedering until their return. On Tuesday last they finished up their work perfectly leaving but four herses in Kockville, and no larger proportion in other parts herses in Keckville, and no larger proportion in case, in the exception of a few most of that county. They took all the carriages but one or two Mr. David Bond, a well-known secessionist, was the only storekeeper in Rockville who escaped. They not only storekeeper in Rockville who escaped. drove off the private vehicles, single as well as double, but they captured the mail-stages. Major John G. Ingham lost tweive hundred dollars' worth of horses, Mr. Viers six hundred bushels of cats, and Judge Bowie all his horses and a large quantity of corn.

We learned from the Union citizens of Rockville and vicinity that the people of Rockville, and indeed of almost toe entire county, have taken the eath of allegiance, and for the enrollment of the militia, the organization yet that there are large numbers of them who had been predicting the coming and purposes of the raiders for weeks before they came. Among the citizens who were marshal.

Breckinridge stated, as he returned, that their friends had exaggerated the forlorn condition of the Yankee capital-bereft of all troops save the hundred days men, and some of the forts having been cleared of their batteries. And, though their intention had only been to cover up their stories they determined on Monday to attack the city that night. But the order was countermanded that afternoon The counter mandate did not reach all their lines ; honce the apparent intention to assault Fort Stevens on Tuesday

When the rebels were leaving the town, on their return to Edwards's Ferry, they were harassed considerably by Col. Lovell, of the 2d Massachusetts, his force, numbering some five hundred dismounted cavalry, driving them until their rear guard was reinforced, when he was obliged to We fall back. Before doing so, however, he had quite a spirited engagement with them, during which he lost seven wounded and one killed. The rebels lost several killed; a colonel believed to be mortally wounded, who was supposed to be secreted somewhere in the vicinity of Rockville; two wounded, whom they could not carry away; and a large number of others wounded whom they took with them is carriages and wagons which they had stolen.

Their retreat was simultaneous throughout their whol ine, or nearly so, a small portion passing down the river road, and the remainder of their force concentrating from various directions, and passing through Bockville en route for Edwards's Ferry, where almost their entire force

They commenced retreating on Tuesday, and their from ine passed Rockville, and along other adjacent roads upon a line with that place, at twelve o'clock on Tuesday night, and was continually filing by until twelve o'clock on Wednesday, when the rear of their main body had gone. They retained their pickets at Rockville, and at the cross-roads on the river road, as well as upon a road leading towards Frederick, until between five and six o'clock on Wednes day evening. Almost their entire force is believed to have crossed the river on Wednesday night. Thereafter, the able number of whom were captured by the dismounted eavalry and the advance of the Sixth Corps.

At three o'clock P. M. to-day the main body of the Sixth Altori's,) and a considerable number of the Nineteenth Corps had followed. This evening the headquarters of Gen. Wright, commanding the Sixth Corps, were at C. GODFREY GUNTHER, Mayor of New York, and Major Poolesville, twenty miles beyond Altorf's, and about Gen SANDFORD, of the New York Militis, that the former thirty miles from Washington.

THE NUMBER OF THE INVADERS.

Having given publicity to the conjectural estimate of Mr. Wilkeson, the Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune, as founded on inferences from intercepted letters, the "tattling" of Rowe, a secessionist, and other sources, inducing him to reckon the late invading host in Maryland at fifty thousand men, it is due to truth that we should state Mr. Wilkeson's impressions on this subject as ment, I regret to say, may not be considered improbable,

"WASHINGTON, JULY 13, 1864. and Breckinridge occupied for their headquarters; a ro. siluded to, and to which the city of New York is so pe connoiseance six miles beyond Silver Spring; a visit to an culiarly exposed. extemporized rebel hospital at Graves's store, eight miles this side of Rockville, where fifty-nine Georgians, too severely wounded to be moved farther, had been operated on, and left partly in tents, partly on the naked ground, to on, and left partly in tents, partly on the naked ground, to fight out a new battle between death and life; a visit to the bullet-cut trees, and bullet-tern houses and fences and rails, and the perforated earth of rife-pits between the rebel and the Union skirmish lines of yesterdsy's conflict, fill seems of arson and plunder which disgraced our city last gaze from flaming Mars (who did so little for us Thursday last "for the purpose of ascertaining the fight out a new battle between death and life; a visit to the bullet-cut trees, and builet-tern bouses and fences and me with a higher and a larger sense of the fighting man-hood of the handful of soldiers of the Sixth Corps who

> hundred men. For six miles beyond Silver Spring only the fields next to the road on either side, and these exclusively pastures or open woods, indicate occupation. In none of them is there a sign of artillery. In all of them the tokens of occupation are of the thinnest and lightest As the expedition, according to our information, was set on foot for the purpose of booty, we may stacks, the undisturbed oat and wheat fields ripe for the harvest, the untouched cornfields, most of the ears partly tasseled out, and some of them fit to roast, indicate questionably a small cavalry force, and an infantry force so small as to be easily and fully fed. The tokens of butchered cattle, all killed in the corners of fields next the road, and all easily and certainly to be counted, also indicate i

small force.
"The proof is incontrovertible that the body of men who beleaguered Washington was utterly insignificant, save in their audacity and courage. Admirable as these were, they paled and cowered before the perfect manhood, the danh, the delirious fighting joy of the Sixth Corps sold ers."

A PATRIOTIC AVOWAL.

The Albany Argus says: "We are glad to see Gen. Dix place himself upon the platform of constitutional lawfrom which his superiors sought to displace him. On Saturday, his case coming up before Judge Russell, Judge U. S. steamer, Sonoma, Lieut. Com. Matthews, captured Pierrepont said, that "if after hearing all the facts in the the small side-wheel steamer Ida, which vessel left Sapelo een committed against the laws of the State, Gen. Dix at the time of her capture fifty four bales of cotton. could bose to the supremocy of the law. If at his age, so loyal a man as Gen. Dix had been guilty of kidnapping and inciting to a riot, then it was time he was punished." There is no purpose to prejudge Gen. Dix, but to assert the right of the courts to inquire into an outrage, no matter by what illegal authority committed."

A torpedo boat is constructing at East Haven, (Conn.) She will be bomb proof, covered with iron plates of a greater thickness than those upon the monitors, and proTHE RESPONSE OF GOVERNOR SEVMOUS

The New York World of Tuesday last states that the rdering out of certain militia regiments of that city had caused quite a sensation among the commands there. It

The force was commanded by Gen. Early, and under him Gen. Breckinridge commanded the infautry and Gen. Ransom the cavalry; the latter numbered from six to eight thousand; and many of the former returned mounted, though care was first taken to supply all the cavalry with better horses than they had when they came. When they returned they admitted a large loss at Fort Stevens, and expressed disappointment at encountering veterans and expressed disappointment at encountering veterans there. Their artillery consisted of three (some say four) bettering. The infantry and some of the cavalry are rep-"The prompt and patriotic orders of the Governor pr templates for them, are ordered to its assistance; while the 1st, 3d, 5tb, 7tb, 8th, 9th, 12th 22d, 37th, 55th, 69th 71st, and 76th regiments, which have already and repeatedly borne onerous parts in responding to previous calls are allowed to remain at home, and although danger necessarily. Rockville were approaching that village, their coming having been reported by fleeing citizens, Major Fry, with a hardly be apprehended here from any reason, yet in any event they will be entirely sufficient for home accurity At the same time the organization of the National Guard is to be promptly proceeded with, which, but for previous political interference, would now have been in a much more it is. The following is the proclamation of Governor Se

"STATE OF NEW YORK,

"Executive Department, Albany, July 8, 1864.

"The event of the past three years have shown the necessity of a well organized militia to uphold the laws; to put down disorders; to suppress insurrections, and to repel inva-sions. The State of New York has been called upon three times to furnish its militia to protect the National Capital, and to drive back invasion of ard leent States. The fourth call has now been made by the President.

"Heretofore the burden has been shrows upon the cities of New York and Rocklin, with the recention of the cities of

neither are they in condition to discharge their duties to the State. This is not only unequal and unjust, but in violation of the theory of our Government, and it must not be longer continued. The calls made by the General Government must the same degree must every county be in a condition to ca-force the laws of the State, the decisions of the judiciary, to maintain peace and order, and to put down resistance to law-ful authority.

"It is my duty to carry out the law of the State providing

tional Guard, and for the public defen

tional Guard, and for the public defence.

"In pursuance of the pr visions of said act, I do, therefore, order and direct the commandants of each company district, in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth (ivisions, to accept sufficient volunteers, should especial objects of search, and who had fled to the woods and thus succeeded in escaping, was Mr. Malden, provost marshal.

and Eighth (ivisions, to accept sufficient volunteers, should the same offer within ten days, to raise their several companies, and maintain the same at the maximum number provided by law; and if sufficient shall not offer, then a sufficient number of the same of the same of the maximum number provided by law; and if sufficient shall not offer, then a sufficient number of the same of ber shall be drawn from the reserve militia of raid district under the euro liment made pursuant to the law of this State and which en ollment commandants will complete without HORATIO SEYMOUR,

"Governor and Commander in Chief.

"JOSIAH T. MILLER, Inspector General S. N. Y."

On the 12th instant, four days after the date of the foregoing proclamation, Gov. SEYMOUR issued a general order directing the commandants of all regiments of the National Guard to hold their commands in readiness for immediate service. The major generals and brigadier generals were directed to see this order at once promulgated throughout their divisions and brigades. In connexion with this order, he also issued an appeal to the peo ple of the State to aid in carrying it out by joining the National Guard, or by such other measures as would give that organization the numbers required by law He said :

"Unless this is done at once I cannot respond to the call now made by the President of the United States. The National Constitution declares that a well-regulated militia is necessary to the security of a free State. If we had headed this truth we should not have been exposed to invasion, to the disgrace of riots, and to the hazards of still greater calamities. The negligence and false economy which lead to disregard this warning have been fearfully punished. The cost of arming and equipping the National Guard would have been trifling compared with the amount which New York must now pay as its quota of the expens of driving back the armies which now threaten the national Let us be warned by the errors of the past. I implore all citizens to lay saide passion and prejudice, and unite in carrying out a law clearly demanded by the honor, the interest, and the safety of the State and nation. In many parts of New York this duty has been utterly negleeted, and the burden of answering calls for the militis has been thrown upon a few sections of the State. In a time of civil war we are perplexed with many questions which are beyond the grasp of any mind. We see from different stand-points, and reach conflicting conclusions It is only ignorance and bigotry which make these d fferences and views occasions for controversy and reproach. However we may differ on other points there should be aed National Governments. I exhort all not to allow their passions, their prejudices, and suspicions to increase the dangers which overhang us. Let us cordially unite in numbers essential to the preservation of the nati Foremost amongst them is the organization of those liable to duty, without respect to creed or political opinions, into local military companies, in order to meet the c demands of the General Government, to secure the enforce ment of the laws of the State, and to afford security to the riosity, would not require to be substantiated by Corps had passed the cross roads above named, (we believe lives and homes of our citizens. This must be done at

> It appears from a published correspondence between protested against any material reduction of the organized and uniformed militia of the city. He wrote to the latter. under date of the 11th instant :

"Protection, in case of riot or popular outbreak, is especially reposed in our organized city regiments. I entertain grave apprehensions that their withdrawal from the city, at a time when the depreciation of our currency is bearing heavily upon the mass of our population, might derived from his own personal observations. We quote from his correspondence which appears in the Tribune of Saturday last, as follows:

I fear that our excellent and powerful police would prove inadequate to our protection in the absence of the military. I therefore most earnestly protect against any material reduction at this period of our organized and uniformed "A visit to the battle ground of last evening; a visit to
Francis P. Blair's estate, called Silver Spring, which Early

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> Major Gen. SANDFORD replied as follows. We quote the substance of his letter :

" I fully agree with you in the necessity of retaining an summer, during the absence of the city regiments. In an the twelve thousand required; and after this detachment is withdrawn I shall still retain twelve of the disciplined re-giments of the first division in the city, ready, willing, and abundantly able to put down promptly any demonstration against the peace and good order of the community"

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

Rear Admiral D. T. Farragut, writing to the Navy Department from on board his flagship Hartford, under date of July 6th, reports the destruction by fire of the blockade funner which was chased on shore near Fort Morgan, Mo. bile harbor, on the night of the 1st instant. The blockade runner was set on fire by a boat expedition from the Hartford, composed of three boats, and totally destroyed. The boarding party was covered by several of our gunboats, but the enemy's force, which was lying within a short distance, did not open fire until the blockade runner had been completely burnt out. The name of the vessel was not ascertained, but our men returned safely to the Hartford after having successfully accomplished the task assigned to them.

Admiral Dahlgren, writing from on board his flagship Philadelphia, in Stono river, S. C., under date of July 10, informs the Navy Department that on the 8th instant the case, his Honor came to the conclusion that an offence had the night before, bound to Nassau. The Ida had on board

Admiral Dahlgren also reports the capture of the rebei schooner Pocahontas, on the night of July 7th, by the U. S. steamers Azalea and Sweet Briar, while attempting to pass out of Charleston barbor bound to Nassau. The Pocahontas had on board fifty-three bales of cotton and two hundred and twenty-nine boxes of tobacco.

The Government has purchased 1,654 cavalry horses in Verment since March 17, 1864, paying from \$133 to \$145 apiece for them. Most of them were shipped from 8t, Albans.